

REPLACED BY
ART 34 ADJUT

We claim:

1. A thixotropic agent comprising as components

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from 0.1 to 30% by weight of at least one ethylene terpolymer wax,

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from 5 to 70% by weight of at least one first solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax, and

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from 5 to 85% by weight of at least one solvent compatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax and with said first solvent(s).

2. A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1, comprising as component at least one ethylene terpolymer wax synthesized from

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from 80 to 99.9% by weight of ethylene,

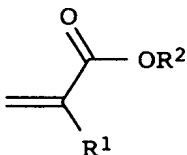
from 0.1 to 20% by weight of at least two comonomers comprising

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as first comonomer from 1 to 99% by weight of at least one C₃-C₁₂ alkenecarboxylic acid and

as second comonomer from 99 to 1% by weight of at least one ester of the formula I

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I

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where R¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl

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and R² is selected from C₁-C₁₀ alkyl, C₃-C₁₂ cycloalkyl, and C₆-C₁₄ aryl.

3. A thixotropic agent as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said first comonomer is acrylic acid.

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4. A thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3,
wherein R^1 is hydrogen or methyl and R^2 is methyl in formula
I.
- 5 5. A thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4,
wherein the ethylene copolymer wax is synthesized from

from 90 to 99% by weight of ethylene and from 10 to 1% by
weight of at least two comonomers comprising
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from 30 to 70% by weight of at least one C_3 - C_{12}
alkenecarboxylic acid as first comonomer and

from 70 to 30% by weight of at least one ester of the formula
15 I as second comonomer.
6. A process for preparing a thixotropic agent as claimed in any
of claims 1 to 5, which comprises first dissolving the
ethylene terpolymer wax in one or more solvents compatible
20 with the ethylene terpolymer wax and then adding at least one
solvent incompatible with the ethylene terpolymer wax.
7. A coating material comprising at least one thixotropic agent
as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
- 25 8. A metallic paint comprising at least one thixotropic agent as
claimed in any of claims 1 to 5.
9. A process for preparing a coating material or metallic paint
30 by mixing in a thixotropic agent as claimed in any of claims
1 to 5.
10. A surface coated with a coating material or metallic paint
comprising at least one thixotropic agent as claimed in any
35 of claims 1 to 5.

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